

Tartar Teen Talk

By Pam Flemming

Greetings! Now that I'm settled back into a routine of going to school, I'd like to devote my first column to telling you a little of my trip back from Germany.

To get to and from Europe, we must travel — but the American Field Service has a rather remarkable way of transporting its students. AFS uses a ship—the MS Seven Seas—which carries Americans abroad and foreign students back and forth across the Atlantic during the summer months. During the winter, the Seven Seas becomes a university.

After spending 20 days on the Seven Seas, 10 days each way, we adopted a few interesting terms for our beloved job. And, for a few hours, students occupied themselves by asking, "Did you know the Seven Seas was the second smallest passenger ship? The first one sank."

Out of these 20 days, I remember one in particular. The date was Sept. 4, which was on the return voyage. The day began like any other except for the fact that we had breakfast, which we usually slept through. After eating, I enjoyed a long conversation with a German boy on his way to Illinois. Despite the fact that he had taken English only for four years, he was quite fluent and also well informed in American politics.

SURPRISING enough it was me for lunch. I forgot to mention the fact that we ate like kings on board. Except for a few delicacies such as el. or tongue, the food is usually plain but good.

It was on the way to my cabin after lunch that I first noticed the gentle swaying motion of the ship, only a little more than usual. On Deck, the air was hot and tuffy so we decided to go out on deck. Armed with coats, scarfs, sweatshirts, and blankets, we found deck chairs on the unsunny sun deck. Here we suffered through the cold wind and salt spray for two hours.

With only half an hour till tea, we went back inside. The AFS was holding a bazaar in the aft lounge. Students had jugged a wide variety of souvenirs out of their suitcases and each country had a display counter. It was quite interesting to survey everyone's treasures. Some of them sort of wondered about—such as a furry-type skin with horns. A boy had salvaged it somewhere in Finland and it occupied one entire suitcase. Even the owner didn't know what its purpose would be at home in the U.S. You would be surprised how much it added to Finland's display, though!

BACK IN CABIN 412, I noticed the rough jerking of our Seven Seas once more. It didn't help my stomach very much. Those tea cakes are really good and our waiter was a good supplier. So, we decided to take a short nap. The quiet was soon disturbed by one of the crew. He had come close to our porthole. Between his English and our German, we communicated to the point where we could understand that a hurricane was directly in our path!

He left, leaving four hysterical girls behind. It was a long before the ship began to pitch and toss more than it had ever pitched and tossed. The students were not disappointed. We not only hit Hurricane Cleo, but Hurricane Dora as well. The details from this point aren't partic-

ularly unusual, considering the weather.

Seriously, the Seven Seas is a wonderful part of my AFS memories. It was an opportunity to meet outstanding kids from all over the United States. We were given a chance to hear each other's ideas in the daily forums where we discussed such topics as American family life, political systems, and racial problems. On the return trip, we exchanged experiences and information gathered abroad.

THERE WERE also many small meetings and activities. School cheerleaders, paper editors, yearbook editors, and student council members all met for discussions. Debates were held between students who went to Greece and Turkey. A mock election was held, complete with campaigning for Goldwater and Johnson.

On the entertainment side, there were two talent shows, a carnival, the bazaar, a shipboard newspaper, and dancing.

Yes, both trips were fun, but still second to my experiences in Germany. I hope to be able to share a small part of my summer through these letters.

CHP Seeks Young Men For Posts

Captain Errett L. Greer, commander of the California Highway Patrol's South Los Angeles area, has issued a call to all local young men who are interested in a career in traffic enforcement to file an application to take the civil service examination for state traffic officer.

The examination will be held on Nov. 7, and applications to participate must be filed with the State Personnel Board by Oct. 9.

"The Patrol is looking for serious-minded young men with an aptitude for law enforcement work," Captain Greer said. "They must be able to pass a written examination that tests, among other things, their ability to learn rules and regulations, to follow directions, and to think clearly and logically. Then they must pass physical and medical tests and a personal interview before they are placed on the eligible list."

"Interested men are welcome to discuss the Patrol and the benefits it offers as a career with any California Highway Patrolman. Pull information and application forms are also available at the Patrol office at 18220 S. Broadway, Gardena.

Dr. Wood Plans Convention Trip

Attending the Scientific Assembly of the California Academy of General Practice in San Francisco Oct. 25 through 28 will be Dr. Howard A. Wood, school physician for the Torrance Unified School District.

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